



# Williamsburg County School District

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Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WCS D Reveals Noteworthy Academic Gains on SC READY and EOCEP

Williamsburg County School District is celebrating a notable year of academic achievement on the SC READY and EOCEP state standardized assessments. The South Carolina Department of Education publicly released statewide scores today.

**SC READY:** The SC READY English Language Arts and math state assessment is administered to scholars in grades three through eight. WCS D has shown gains in the number of scholars who met or exceeded state standards from 2023 to 2024 for both English Language Arts and math.

Key highlights from this year's overall district academic performance include:

- Elementary ELA data shifted from 32.5% to 40.4%, which is a 7.9% increase. And if we look back to 2022, ELA was at 24.6% compared to now, which is a 15.8% gain in two years.
- Elementary math scholars who met or exceeded state standards jumped from 24.4% to 33.7%, which show a 9.3% growth. And if we look back to 2022, math was only at 19.5%, which is a 14.2% increase in two years.
- Middle level ELA data increased from 33.8% to 42.5%, which indicates an 8.7% upsurge. Looking back to 2022, the district overall ELA scores were at 23.5%, which shows a 19% increase in two years.
- Middle level math data moved from 12.5% to 15.6%, which reveals a 3.1% gain. Looking back to 2022, math was only at 9.5%, which is a 6.1% increase in two years.

As we analyze data at the school level, it is essential to highlight the following schools and subjects that showed remarkable growth. Greeleyville STEAM Academy, formerly Greeleyville Primary, had 73% of their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math scholars and 56.8% of their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA scholars to reach met or exceeds on the assessment. C. E. Murray Elementary increased their 4<sup>th</sup> grade math data from 17.5% to 36.4%, which is an 18.9% rise. Hemingway Elementary shifted their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math data from 13% to 34% which indicates a 21% increase. In ELA, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade scholar's data rose from 25% to 51%, which is a 36% increase. Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy showed a 10% ELA increase at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level and a 14.9% increase in math at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level moving the needle from 30.3% to 45.3%. Overall C. E. Murray Middle shifted the ELA data significantly at all three grades levels. The number of scholars who met or exceeded expectations at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was 54.5%, 7<sup>th</sup> grade was 43.2%, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 40.7% Hemingway M. B. Lee Middle School shifted the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA data from 27.5% to 42.2%, which is an 14.7% increase. Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts increased ELA data meaningfully at all three grade levels. The number of scholars who met or exceeded expectations in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was 44.3%, 7<sup>th</sup> grade was 41.3%, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 50%.

The data charts below show the overall growth from 2023 to 2024 by grade level for both ELA and math.

SC READY		DISTRICT		
		2023	2024	±
GR 3	ELA	26.2	37.6	11.4
	Math	23.5	39.5	16
GR 4	ELA	35.1	43	7.9
	Math	24	26.5	2.5
GR 5	ELA	35.4	40.8	5.4
	Math	25.5	34.8	9.3
Overall	ELA	32.5	40.4	7.9
	Math	24.4	33.7	9.3

SC READY		DISTRICT		
		2023	2024	±
GR 6	ELA	36.4	44.3	7.9
	Math	14.9	20.4	5.5
GR 7	ELA	28.8	39.7	10.9
	Math	9.6	12.7	3.1
GR 8	ELA	37.2	43.3	6.1
	Math	13.5	13.5	0
Overall	ELA	33.8	42.5	8.7
	Math	12.5	15.6	3.1

**EOCEP:** Scholars at the high school level took the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) assessment in four subjects English 2, Algebra 1, Biology 1 and U.S. History and the Constitution. Overall, the district has increased the number of scholars who scored an A, B, or C from 2023 to 2024 in three subject areas, Algebra 1, English 2 and Biology 1. While the district saw a decline in USHC scores, we have put a plan in place to address this area.

Key highlights from this year's overall district academic performance include:

- Algebra I scholars scoring a "C" or above skyrocketed from 20.59% to 69.23%, which is a momentous increase of 48.64%. The overall district's Algebra I passing rate (A, B, C, or D) shifted from 45.38% to 84.02%, which is a significant increase of 38.63%. The district exceeded the state average which was 50.74% for scholars scoring a "C" or better and 72.50% for scholars scoring an A, B, C, or D.
- Biology 1 scores indicated that scholars scoring a "C" or above jumped from 13.19% to 33.18%, which is a 19.99%. The scholars passing rate (A, B, C, or D) moved from 28.51% to 48.85%.
- English 2 scholars scoring a "C" or above shifted from 65.61% to 72.15%, which is a 6.54%. The scholars passing rate (A, B, C, or D) soared from 85.07% to 92.24%, which indicates an 7.17% gain. The district exceeded the state average of 69.56% for scholars scoring a "C" or better and 85.83% for scholars scoring an A, B, C, or D.

As we analyze data at the school level, it is essential to highlight the following schools and subjects that showed remarkable growth. Thee Kingstree High elevated their Algebra I data from 24.47% to 75.00% for scholars scoring a "C" or higher, which surpasses the state average of 50.74%. Hemingway High increased Algebra I scores from 6.00% to 46.94% scoring a "C" or better. Biology I scholars at KHS scoring a "C" or better increased from 12.23% to 26.63%, which indicated a 14.4%. Meanwhile, scholars at HHS scoring a "C" or better soared from 17.02% to 56.25%, which is an increase of 39.23%. In addition, the scholars at HHS exceeded the state average of 47.26%. The scholars at KHS scoring a "C" or higher in English 2 increased from 63.28% to 71.43%, which is an increase of 8.15% and the scholars at HHS remained the same at 75.00%. Both KHS and HHS surpassed the state average of 69.56%.

The data chart below shows the overall growth from 2023 to 2024 by content area

		DISTRICT		
EOCEP		2023	2024	±
Algebra 1	Proficient (A, B, or C)	20.59	69.23	48.64
	Passing (A, B, C, or D)	45.38	84.02	38.64
Biology 1	Proficient (A, B, or C)	13.19	33.18	19.99
	Passing (A, B, C, or D)	28.51	48.85	20.34
English 2	Proficient (A, B, or C)	65.61	72.15	6.54
	Passing (A, B, C, or D)	85.07	92.24	7.17
USHC	Proficient (A, B, or C)	23.98	22.77	-1.21
	Passing (A, B, C, or D)	46.94	42.08	-4.86

As we reflect on the past year, the scholars have worked extremely hard this year. The results display the hard work and determination of our scholars, staff, families, and the community. The results reflect a collective effort to ensure that every scholar has the opportunity to excel.

Looking ahead, the district plans to build on this momentum with new goals aimed at enhancing the educational outcomes for all scholars. Although we are celebrating these successes, we are remaining focused on continuous improvement and ensuring that every scholar has the support needed to thrive. Changing academic proficiency cannot be done in isolation. It is essential that all schools focus on the culture of the building and the well-being of those inside.

Highlights of the new and continuing initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year

- Implementing new ELA curriculums district-wide
- Entering into year two of Eureka Math<sup>2</sup> that is being utilized K – 8 for Math
- Utilizing i-Ready (K – 8) and Exact Path (9 – 10) which places scholars on their individual path to allow growth and achievement of grade-level expectations
- Providing in-depth professional development on best practices and standards-based instruction

- Continuing the implementation of LETRS® for early and elementary educators. Lexia's Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) is a professional course of study to help educators master the content and principles of effective reading, language, and literacy instruction.
- Providing Gifted and Talented Advanced Academic Program is in place for grades 3 - 8 which includes local and state identified students. The purpose of this program is to challenge and help gifted students reach their academic achievement.
- Extending Lexia Core5 Reading will be utilized for scholars in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as a Tier 3 support. We will carryover support available for identified 4th graders from last year.
- Partnering with Transformative Educational Solutions who has been instrumental in assisting the middle and high schools see the academic success as well as ensuring that all students and faculty are focusing on their social emotional learning skills.
- Partnering with Dr. Eugenia Latham who has been instrumental in supporting our district as a whole. She is currently supporting the Instructional and Reading Coaches.
- Utilizing Educational Epiphany's Integrated Approach to Scholar Achievement Model written by internationally renowned author and educational leader, Dr. Donyall Dickey.

In partnership with all stakeholders, Williamsburg County School District has set out to ensure a world-class education for all scholars by utilizing a rigorous, innovative curriculum that focuses on creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. WCSD is "Imagining Greatness" for all of our scholars and staff. We are invested in the success of ALL of our scholars. As we embark on the new school year, we are excited about the amazing things that are taking place in the district and look forward to continuing to engage and empower our scholars to do their best.